

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-17 are rejected.

Claims 1-2, 5-14, 16 and 17 have been amended herein to clarify applicant's claimed invention. Claims 1 and 17 are independent claims. Claims 11-14 and 16 depend from claim 17.

Claims 3, 4 and 15 have been cancelled herein.

Applicant's claimed invention includes the network being defined as "a synchronous network" of a ring configuration such as SONET/SDH network. Applicant's claimed invention connects a LAN interface for LAN segments, which is an asynchronous network, to the SONET/SDH network, which is synchronous network.

Independent claims 1 and 17 respectively have a LAN interface which accommodate the LAN segments. The LAN interface includes a communication controller for forming a packet of LAN data by adding an overhead which indicates node numbers of a transmission source and a transmission destination to inter-connect LAN segments of a node and a LAN segment of another node via the synchronous network.

Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Picazo Picazo, Jr. et al. (Picazo) (U.S. Patent 5,841,990).

The cited reference, Picazo discloses a connection between nodes and a backbone network. However both the nodes and backbone network are asynchronous networks. Accordingly, a LAN controller and LAN interfaces indicated in Picazo are different from those defined in independent claims 1 and 17.

Independent claims 1 and 17, as pointed out above, have a LAN interface, which includes the communication controller forming a packet of LAN data by adding overhead which indicates

node numbers of a transmission source and a transmission destination to inter-connect LAN segments of an own node and a LAN segment of another node via the synchronous network.

The reference, Picazo indicates a ring configuration, Token Ring or FDDI (column 10, line 17). But Token Ring and FDDI are asynchronous networks, and are only an extension of the IEEE 80x series.

Picazo, further states in col. 10, line 18, "the teachings of the invention are equally applicable to any communication model such as OSI and any transport layer protocol such as TCP/IP, XNS, IPX, Apple Talk, DECnet and SNA."

But, this relates to a physical layer. In contrast the feature in applicant's claimed invention relates to a data frame structure and an operation in such backbone network.

For at least the foregoing reasons it is respectfully requested the rejection of claims 1 and 17 be withdrawn.

Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Picazo in view of Buchholz (U.S. Patent 5,337,313). Claims 12-14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Picazo in view of Beshai (U.S. Patent 6,404,735 B1) and claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Picazo and Beshai as applied against claim 12-14, and further in view of Zadikian (U.S. Patent 6,724,757).


Each of the dependent claims includes at least the features of applicant's independent claims 1, 17 in addition to further allowable features. It is respectfully submitted each of the additional references, in combination with Picazo, fails to teach or suggest at least the lacking features found in the independent claims.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider

this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,


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